

# 70<sup>th</sup> Powerboat Squadron

## D-Day Commemoration

30<sup>th</sup> May to 09<sup>th</sup> June 2014



**A visit to Ouistreham/Caen area to support events commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day 1944**

## **Contents**

***Pages 2 & 3. The Boats***

***Pages 4, 5, 6, & 7. D day Operational Plan 3***

***Pages 8 & 9. D day Veterans visit to the Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust***

## **70th D-day Commemoration, Ouistreham -Caen. 3rd June to 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014.**

### **MGB 81.**



Based at HMS Hornet, Portsmouth, Motor Gunboat (MGB) 81 took part in the D-day landings, acting as one of the lead boats for the British and Canadian troops, on the approaches to Sword beach. (This boat had been re-designated as MTB 416 at that time. PNBPT has retained her in her MGB 81 markings.)

### **HSL 102.**



HSL (High Speed Launch) 102 is an Air Sea Rescue launch attached to the Royal Air Force. The purpose of this class of boat was to rescue downed airmen, from the sea. HSL 102 was credited with many such recoveries. She did not attend D-day herself, but many of her sister boats were involved.

## HDML 1387 (HMS Medusa)



HDML (Harbour Defence Motor Launch) 1387, was on the 5th June 1944, ordered to a position in the English Channel, from where she acted as the Channel Marker for Omaha Beach. This gave direction, for the advancing invasion boats, to reach their correct landing beach positions. On completion of this duty she went into Arromanches.

## MTB 102.



MTB (Motor Torpedo Boat) 102 carried Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and General Eisenhower, on a review of the ships and boats assembled for the D-Day invasion, off the South Coast ports. She attended D-day in a supervisory role, covering the ships and boats as they crossed the Channel to France. At that time she was designated as RASC Vimy

These are the only known remaining operational boats, of the 7000 which took part in the D-day landings.

# 70<sup>th</sup> POWERBOAT SQUADRON

## D-Day Operational Plan 3

30<sup>th</sup> May to 09<sup>th</sup> June 2014

**OP PLAN 3** is in consideration of the requirement for the 70<sup>th</sup> PBS participants to maintain a common approach to their involvement in the D-Day Commemoration Events in France. This is a “living” plan that be updated as the situation clarifies and matters progress, and to which contributions are welcome.

**It should be borne in mind that the plans are subject to weather, operational availability, and the approval of individual Skippers/Owners.**

### Participants

*MGB 81, HSL 102, HDML 1387 (Medusa), and MTB 102.*

### Purpose

To arrange a visit to the Ouistreham/Caen area to support events commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day 1944.

The 3 boats - *MGB 81, HDML 1387, and MTB 102* are the last surviving operational boats out of the 7,000 which took part in the D-Day landings and that are still afloat today. These 3 boats were in the same area, on the same days in 1944, at the D-Day landings.

*HSL 102* was not there, but many of her sister boats were present.

### PLAN (all times Local)

#### 30<sup>th</sup> May, Friday

**Morning.** *Medusa* moves from Haslar to the south side of the Heritage Pontoon, astern of *MGB 81*.

*MTB102* berths astern of *HSL102*, north side of the Heritage Pontoon.

#### 31<sup>st</sup> May, Saturday

**1000 to 1600.** *MGB81, HSL102, MTB102* and *Medusa* open to the public.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> June, Sunday

**1000 to 1600.** *MGB81, HSL102, MTB102* and *Medusa* open to the public.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> June, Monday

Morning. Visit by about 50 D-Day Veterans to Flagship Pontoon.  
1015 Arrive in 2 coaches + 1 minibus, at BH4, welcome by PNBPT.  
The Millin Pipes will be landed from *MTB102*.  
The RBL 220 Crosses , with a wreath, will be boarded onto *MGB81*, by Veterans. Veterans proceed to BH7 for light buffet, and then visit to other Dockyard attractions.  
1200 to 1600 *MGB81*, *HSL102*, *MTB102* and *Medusa* open to the public.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> June, Tuesday

Morning 70<sup>th</sup> PBS (4 boats) depart Portsmouth, about 0600.  
1430. All 4 boats arrive at the lock entrance to Ouistreham.  
1530. All 4 boats arrive at the Pegasus Bridge allocated berth.  
1500 70 RNSA yachts depart Portsmouth for Ouistreham.

## 4<sup>th</sup> June, Wednesday

Morning Selected boat(s) participate in the “*Le remonter le temps au fils de leau*”.  
This involves 140 teenagers paddling canoes from Caen to Pegasus Bridge Museum, for a presentation. Accompanied by a group of D-Day Veterans.  
HSL 102 offered for this serial.  
1000 to 1600. Boats open to visitors.

## 5<sup>th</sup> June, Thursday

Morning. Possible visit by HRH The Prince of Wales, who is attending a tank unveiling at the Pegasus Bridge Museum. Visit by D-Day Veterans.  
1000 to 1600. Boats open to visitors.  
Evening. Possibly take part in a musical festival, Ouistreham area.  
2400 Midnight vigil, followed by firework display.

## 6<sup>th</sup> June, Friday

No movements allowed on this day.  
1000 to 1600. Open to visitors.

## 7<sup>th</sup> June, Saturday

1000. All four boats depart Pegasus Bridge berth.  
Possibility we will have Veterans on board for this trip.
1200. Arrive Caen Marina berth.
- 1300 to 1600. Open to visitors.
- Afternoon, RPC on *HLS102*.

## 8<sup>th</sup> June, Sunday

- 1000 to 1600. All boats open to visitors. Open to visitors.
- Afternoon. Reception on *HSL 102*.

## 9<sup>th</sup> June, Monday

0600. All four boats depart for home base. Departure dates and times are flexible and are at the discretion of each boat.

## PROCEDURES

- Berth.** Initially alongside a concrete harbour wall at Pegasus Bridge and is a suitable, safe mooring.  
On the Town Quay, Caen Marina. Official confirmation of the berth has been received. Each boat should have a means of getting people on board, as the quay heights are about the same as Marina pontoon heights.  
(This will be confirmed.)

## Crew Arrangements.

**Accommodation** Each boat will accommodate its own crew on board.

**Feeding.** Each boat will attend to its own crew needs.

**Showers.** The Mayor of Benouville has been approached re the use of shower facilities in the local gymnasium. (To be confirmed.)  
The Ouistreham Yacht Club has offered to use their minibus to transport crews to the facilities at Ouistreham Marina. (confirmed).

**Toilets.** Chemical toilets have been requested to be sited ashore at the Pegasus Bridge berth, sufficient to cover 16 people for 4 days. (To be confirmed.)  
The Pegasus Bridge Museum is a short walk away, and the facilities there are available for our use.  
When the boats move to Caen Marina, facilities should be available, at the Caen Yacht Club.

- Power                Each boat should have its own power supplies. Shore power may be available in the Caen Marina. (To be confirmed.)
- Availability.       The boats have been offered to the Ouistreham/Caen Events Planning Team for use as required.
- The Millin Pipe team  
                         will consist of 2 coaches and one minibus, with about 50 consisting of 50 Veterans, relatives, First Aiders and carers.
- The Royal British Legion  
                         will consist of 8 persons. The RBL will bring the wreath and crosses for embarkation on *MGB 81*.  
                         The RBL Padre will bless the boats.  
                         A RBL Standard may be embarked on *MGB 81* for the crossing, and return.  
                         A number of French Volunteers will be available to assist with the daily boat open times.  
                         A leaflet defining each boat, will be available for distribution, both in English as well as French.



## D-Day Veterans

### Visit to the Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust.

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014

**The PNBPT** has invited the following 2 groups to visit the Portsmouth Royal Naval Dockyard, on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014.

1. The Millin Pipe Team (**MPT**) consisting of 100 Veterans, families and carers, in 2 coaches and one minibus.
2. The Hampshire Branch of the Royal British Legion, (**RBL**) consisting of 8 Members, on foot.

#### Proposed timetable.

- 0950. **MPT** 2 Coaches and one minibus arrive at the Victory Gate entrance to the Dockyard.
- 1001. Dockyard gates open, **MPT** team enter and park at Boat House 4. **MPT** disembark from transport and gather in Boat House 7. *(For reasons of comfort, and seating/ toilets etc. being available for those who need this.)*
- 1005. **RBL** team arrive at Victory gate on foot. Met and escorted to BH7 to join the **MPT** group. *(Parking available very close by in Queen Street, map to follow.)*
- 1020. Welcome address from the **PNBPT**.
- 1030. All guests proceed on foot to the Flagship pontoon.
- 1040. Colours ceremony on Flagship Pontoon mast. *(Action Portsmouth Sea Cadets)*
- 1045. The Millin Pipes are brought ashore from **MTB** 102. *(Action **MPT**)*
- 1100. RBL Padre to bless the 4 boats. *(Action **RBL**)*
- 1110. **RBL** Standard, 220 Crosses and one wreath embarked to the care of MGB 81. *(Action **RBL/PNBPT**)*
- 1115. Boats open to **MPT** and **RBL**.



- 1150. All guests proceed from Flagship Pontoon, to Boat House 7, led by the Millin Piper.
- 1200. All guests welcomed into Boat House 7 for a light finger buffet.  
*(Action PNBPT)*
- 1230. Guests wished a bon voyage. *(Action PNBPT)*
- 1300. Guests disperse as required. *(Action MPT, RBL, PNBPT)*

### Notes.

1. **PNBPT** supply dedicated escorts for each serial.
2. The seating in **BH7** to be close to the entrance doors.
3. No public access to the Flagship Pontoon during the ceremony.
4. Open the gates to Warrior, and allow the public free access to the quayside for the ceremony.
5. The public to have access to the 2 groups during the 1200 to 1300 time slot.  
**"Meet the Veterans"**
6. **PNBPT** Press Team to liaise with Press.
7. Any other press activity, arranged by participants, must be advised in detail to the **PNBPT** PR team, well in advance of the event.
8. Any VIP visitors invited into the Dockyard by participants must be advised to the **PNBPT** PR team well in advance of the event.